



John Dillon

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• CLASSICS •

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS  
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“HOW TO MANAGE your DEMONS”



# LANGFORD FAMILY EMINENT SCHOLAR'S

WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 2018  
TURNBULL CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM 205

## OUR RATIONALE

In Plato's *Symposium*, the wise woman Diotima teaches Socrates who alone of all men professes his ignorance, that Love is "a great daemon, and like all daemons, he is intermediate between the divine and the mortal... He interprets between gods and men, conveying and taking across to the gods the prayers and sacrifices of men, and to men the commands and replies of the gods; he is the mediator who spans the chasm which divides them, and therefore in him all is bound together" (*Smp.* 202d14–e7). Using Plato's oracular definition of the concept, this workshop explores its later permutations such as the mathematicized expression of the relations between gods, daemons, and men in Xenocrates, its mythological allegorization in Plutarch, and its problematization in Philo of Alexandria, Alcinous, Plotinus, and Iamblichus. Our examination aims to answer the simple question of what the concept of daemons has done for us to understand ancient philosophy better.

## THE LANGFORD ENDOWMENT

The Langford Endowment and the Langford Family Chair are established with the generous support of the Langford Family in honor of George R. Langford, the founder and chairman of the Municipal Code Corporation, the 1989 Florida Entrepreneur of the Year, and a member of the Institute of American Entrepreneurs. The Endowment enables the Department of Classics at Florida State University to invite outstanding scholars of international distinction to hold the position of Langford Family Chair, and also provides the opportunity for the Langford Family Chair to teach, conduct workshops, and to host a conference.

For more information about the Langford Endowment, please visit [classics.fsu.edu](http://classics.fsu.edu).

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

### WELCOME

Svetla Slaveva-Griffin

Florida State University

2–2:10 p.m.

### "HOW TO MANAGE YOUR DAEMONS"

John Dillon

Trinity College, Dublin

2:10–3:30 p.m.

### BREAK

3:30–3:45 p.m.

### "DAEMONS, SOULS, AND STARS: PLOTINUS RATIONALIZES PLATONIC DAEMONOLOGY"

Wiebke-Marie Stock

University of Notre Dame

3:45–4:30 p.m.

### RECEPTION

5–6:30 p.m.

(The Heritage Museum, Dodd Hall)